

Elevator standards and advisory board
(SB 626 by Brooks/Criss)

DIGEST: SB 626 would have established an eight-member Elevator Advisory Board to advise the commissioner of labor and standards on adopting standards for the installation, operation and status of elevators, escalators and similar equipment. The commissioner would have been required to adopt standards for installation and operation of elevators and like equipment in state buildings and other buildings with public elevators. The standards adopted could not have been more stringent than those of the American National Standards Institute at the time the elevator was constructed or installed. Elevators would have been inspected once a year. Property owners would have been guilty of a Class C misdemeanor (maximum penalty of a \$200 fine) for failure to comply with the yearly inspection.

GOVERNOR'S
REASON
FOR VETO:

This bill would create new regulations for the mandatory licensing of elevators and elevator inspectors through the Texas Department of Labor and Standards. At least one city licenses and regulates elevator inspections now, and its ordinance would be diluted by this bill. This bill does not allow the department to require insurance or bonding by the inspectors or the maintenance companies. Statewide proposals should allow local supervision to control if it promotes greater safety.

RESPONSE:

Sen. Chet Brooks, the author of SB 626, said: "I think we can meet the governor's objections to SB 626 by exempting municipalities that license and regulate elevator inspections provided the municipality's standards are not less stringent than the state's. We might also exempt from the \$10 filing fee, but not from the inspection and filing requirement, buildings owned by the federal government, the State of Texas or its political subdivisions."

Sen. Brooks further stated, "As to the governor's comments about bonding or insurance for inspectors or maintenance companies, building owners already carry liability insurance, so I see no need for additional bonding or insurance."

NOTES:

The House Research Organization analysis of SB 626 appeared in the May 18, 1989 Daily Floor Report.